

**ORIGINAL
FILE COPY**

TESTIMONY OF JAMES R. MAHER
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

FILED ON BEHALF OF
THE STAFF OF THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FILED: OCTOBER 12, 1992

SYSTEMS: BEECHERS POINT, HERMITS COVE, INTERLACHEN LAKE ESTATES, PALM PORT,
PARK MANOR, POMONA PARK, RIVER GROVE, RIVER PARK, SARATOGA HARBOR, SILVER LAKE
OAKS, ST. JOHNS HIGHLANDS, WELAKA AND WOOTENS WATER SYSTEMS

COUNTY: PUTNAM

DOCKET NO. 920199-WS - APPLICATION FOR A RATE INCREASE BY
SOUTHERN STATES UTILITIES, INC.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JAMES MAHER

1
2 Q. Please state your name and business address.

3 A. My name is James R. Maher and my business address is 7825 Baymeadows Rd.
4 Suite 200-B, Jacksonville, FL 32256-7577

5 Q. Please state a brief description of your educational background and
6 experience.

7 A. I received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering from
8 Lehigh University. I served as a Naval Engineer on the USS Forrestal. I have
9 also been employed as an environmental engineer for HRS. I have been employed
10 for approximately four years in the drinking water section of DER.

11 Q. By whom are you presently employed?

12 A. The Florida Department of Environmental Regulation.

13 Q. How long have you been employed with the Department of Environmental
14 Regulation and in what capacity?

15 A. I have been employed with DER for approximately 4 years. I am currently
16 an Engineer 4 in the Potable Water Section.

17 Q. What are your general responsibilities at the Department of
18 Environmental Regulation?

19 A. I inspect public water facilities, monitor system compliance, recommend
20 corrective action for deficiencies and recommend enforcement action when
21 necessary. I also permit new systems and upgrades.

22 Q. Are you familiar with the Southern States Utilities Water Systems in
23 Putnam County, particularly the Beechers Point, Hermits Cove, Interlachen Lake
24 Estates, Palm Port, Park Manor, Pomona Park, River Grove, River Park, Saratoga
25 Harbor, Silver Lake Oaks, St. Johns Highlands, Welaka and Wootens systems?

1 | A. Yes, I am familiar with all of these water systems.

2 | Q. Are the utility's distribution systems sufficient to serve its present
3 | customers?

4 | A. Yes.

5 | Q. Does the utility maintain the required 20 psi minimum pressure
6 | throughout the distribution systems?

7 | A. Yes.

8 | Q. Does each system have an adequate auxiliary power source in the event
9 | of a power outage?

10 | A. The Beechers Point, Palm Port, River Grove, Silver Lake Oaks, St. Johns
11 | Highlands, Welaka and Wootens systems are not required to have auxiliary
12 | power.

13 | The Hermits Cove system has an adequate auxiliary power source as
14 | required by DER.

15 | The Interlachen Lake Estates system does not have adequate auxiliary
16 | power as required by DER. A permit has been issued to install the auxiliary
17 | power source, but the work has not been completed.

18 | The Pomona Park system does not have adequate auxiliary power as
19 | required by DER. I have issued a non-compliance letter to SSU about this
20 | matter. I am currently waiting for a response from SSU.

21 | The River Park system does not have adequate auxiliary power as required
22 | by DER. A permit has been issued to install the auxiliary power source, but
23 | the work has not been completed.

24 | The Saratoga Harbor system does not have adequate auxiliary power as
25 | required by DER. I have issued a non-compliance letter to SSU about this

1 matter. I am currently waiting for a response from SSU.

2 Q. Are the utility's water wells located in compliance with Rule
3 17-555.312, Florida Administrative Code?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Does the utility have certified operators as required by Chapter 17-602,
6 Florida Administrative Code?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Has the utility established a cross-connection control program in
9 accordance with Section 17-555.360, Florida Administrative Code?

10 A. I am not aware of a cross-connection program established by any of the
11 Putnam county systems. SSU is responsible for developing a cross-connection
12 control program.

13 Q. Is the overall maintenance of the treatment plants and distribution
14 facilities satisfactory?

15 A. Yes. Southern States corrects minor deficiencies when they are noted.

16 Q. Does the water produced by the utilities meet the State and Federal
17 maximum contaminant levels for primary and secondary water quality standards?

18 A. The water produced by the Interlachen Lake Estates, Palm Port, River
19 Grove and Welaka systems meet state and federal maximum contaminant levels for
20 primary and secondary water quality standards.

21 The Beechers Point system does not meet the primary MCL for Sodium. The
22 Beechers Point system does meet the secondary MCLs for Chloride and TDS.
23 Additional treatment or additional source of supply is needed. I have sent a
24 non-compliance letter to SSU about their water quality. SSU has informed me
25 they have hired a engineering firm to study the problem and recommend a

1 solution. I am currently waiting for this report.

2 The Hermits Cove system does not meet the secondary MCLs for Manganese
3 and TDS. These contaminants did not clear the 1992 rechecks. I have sent a
4 non-compliance letter to SSU about their water quality. SSU has informed me
5 they have hired a engineering firm to study the problem and recommend a
6 solution. I am currently waiting for this report.

7 The Park Manor water plant is no longer in operation. Water is supplied
8 through a interconnection with the Interlachen Lake Estates water system.

9 The Pomona Park system showed high levels of Manganese in the 1992
10 analysis. The 1992 rechecks confirmed the Manganese levels exceed the MCLs but
11 the test results were erratic. We are allowing additional sampling before
12 additional treatment is mandated.

13 The River Park system does not meet the secondary MCLs for iron. High
14 iron levels were measured in 1985 and 1988, but the rechecks cleared the MCLs
15 both years. However, the rechecks did not clear the MCLs in 1992. Also, Color
16 is at the current MCL. I have sent a non-compliance letter to SSU about their
17 water quality. SSU has informed me they have hired a engineering firm to study
18 the problem and recommend a solution. I am currently waiting for this report.

19 The Saratoga Harbor system meets the primary and secondary MCLs with
20 some qualification. The odor levels exceeded the MCL but the rechecks are
21 erratic and additional sampling is needed before the Odor level is confirmed
22 to exceed the MCL. The aerator and ground storage tank are adequately sized.

23 The Silver Lake Oaks system meets primary and secondary MCLs. However,
24 iron levels fluctuate greatly, so filtration may be required in the future.

25 The St. Johns Highlands system meets primary and secondary MCLs.

1 | However, TDS and chloride barely cleared the 1992 rechecks.

2 | The Wootens system does not meet secondary MCLs. Color, odor and
3 | turbidity levels currently exceed the MCLs. It should be noted that none of
4 | these parameters exceeded the MCLs before 1991. I have sent a non-compliance
5 | letter to SSU about their water quality. SSU has informed me they have hired
6 | a engineering firm to study the problem and recommend a solution. I am
7 | currently waiting for this report.

8 | Q. Do the utilities monitor the organic contaminants listed in Rule
9 | 17-550.410, Florida Administrative Code?

10 | A. Yes.

11 | Q. Do the utilities maintain the required chlorine residual or its
12 | equivalent throughout the distribution systems?

13 | A. Yes, generally. When inspections note a low chlorine residual, adequate
14 | levels are soon restored.

15 | Q. Are the plants and distribution systems in compliance with all the other
16 | provisions of Title 17, Florida Administrative Code, not previously mentioned?

17 | A. Yes.

18 | Q. Have any of the SSU - Putnam County water systems been the subject of
19 | any Department of Environmental Regulation enforcement action within the past
20 | two years?

21 | A. Yes. Warning notices were issued for past due chemical analyses. The
22 | chemical analyses have now been received and the violations cleared.

23 | Q. Do you have anything further to add?

24 | A. No, I do not.

25 |